



***United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FEDERAL JUDGE SENTENCES EX-OFFICIAL OF LOCAL COMPUTER  
CONSULTING FIRM FOR COMPUTER ATTACK CHARGE**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that NEAL COTTON, a former network administrator of a Manhattan-based computer network consulting firm called Cyber City, Incorporated, was sentenced today by United States District Judge DENNY CHIN to one year and one day in prison, and ordered to pay \$119,757 in restitution, stemming from COTTON's electronic attack on Cyber City's computer system in April 2003. COTTON's attack on Cyber City destroyed portions of its computer hardware and deprived its customers of their computer data, causing Cyber City approximately \$119,757 in losses.

On September 9, 2004, COTTON pled guilty to a felony charge of computer intrusion. During his plea, COTTON admitted that he had committed the computer attack on Cyber City with the intent to damage its computer systems.

According to the Criminal complaint filed previously in this case, Cyber City, a local computer network consulting firm, provides a variety of computer network and database services to

businesses located in Manhattan, Los Angeles, Atlanta and London. These services include computer network design, computer hardware and software purchasing, network installation and maintenance, website production, and computer data backup and technical support. COTTON was a Cyber City field technician between 1999 and April 3, 2003. In that capacity, COTTON was provided with various passwords and user codes that gave him access to Cyber City's computer network, both from inside Cyber City's offices, and via remote connection over the Internet.

According to the Complaint, on April 2, 2003, an executive of Cyber City informed COTTON he would be fired from the company. On April 3, 2003, COTTON told a Cyber City co-worker that he was displeased because Cyber City had failed to pay him several hundred dollars in exchange for some computer equipment COTTON had returned to Cyber City.

Then, according to the Complaint, later that night, Cyber City experienced a computer intrusion attack on its network that wiped out files and data of several of Cyber City's most important client companies, rendering customers' computer networks useless, some for days, and caused some customers to lose data permanently. As the Complaint states, at around the time the attack on Cyber City was perpetrated, COTTON's co-worker observed COTTON sitting at a computer at the co-worker's home, and later COTTON admitted to the co-worker that COTTON had

attacked Cyber City's computers.

According to the Complaint, although Cyber City was able to restore its system and service to its customers with some effort - including retaining outside data recovery services - some data was permanently lost, and Cyber City suffered substantial financial losses relating to, among other things, time, effort and out-of-pocket expenses required to repair the system, restore customer data, and repair customer relations. At today's sentencing proceeding, Judge CHIN determined that those losses totaled \$119,757.

COTTON, 28, lives in Vasalia, California.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this case.

Assistant United States Attorney DAVID SIEGAL is in charge of the prosecution.

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